



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 1, 2002

S. 1777

International Disability and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife, and Warfare Assistance Act of 2002

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 30, 2002

SUMMARY

S. 1777 would authorize the President to furnish assistance to individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other war injuries. The bill also would authorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide such assistance, and would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide advice and expertise to U.S. agencies and private voluntary agencies undertaking such programs. Currently, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the CDC, and VA provide some assistance in this area under more general authority. CBO estimates that implementing S. 1777 would cost about \$4 million over the 2003-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because S. 1777 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 1777 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2003, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns. The budgetary impact of S. 1777 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 550 (health) and 700 (veterans benefits and services).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estimated Outlays | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1777 would authorize the President to furnish assistance to individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other war injuries. Under more general authorities in current law, USAID, the CDC, and VA provide roughly \$15 million a year in assistance in this area. The bill would expand current programs.

U.S. Agency for International Development. Section 3 would authorize assistance to individuals with disabilities, including victims of landmines and other victims of warfare and civil strife. USAID currently provides such assistance, primarily through the Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, with a funding level of \$10 million each year. CBO estimates that under S. 1777, funding for individuals with disabilities would continue at that rate.

Centers for Disease Control. Section 4 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the CDC to conduct programs in foreign countries for individuals with disabilities, including persons injured by landmines and civil strife. Those programs could include research on trauma and rehabilitation, evaluating treatment interventions, developing medical instruction tools for responding to traumatic injuries, and facilitating and training peer-support networks. The bill would authorize the CDC to provide grants to nongovernmental organizations to carry out research, prevention activities, and public awareness campaigns, as well as other activities to share information about research on limb loss and best practices in treatment programs.

Under current law, the CDC provides \$5 million a year for some of the activities authorized by the bill, most of which are directed toward a network for victims of landmines. S. 1777 would authorize the CDC to carry out additional activities such as trauma research and evaluation of medical treatments. According to the CDC, those additional activities would require \$2 million a year in additional funding. Thus, CBO estimates that the bill would increase agency spending by \$4 million over the 2003-2005 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Department of Veterans Affairs. Section 5 would authorize VA to provide advice and expertise to federal agencies and technical assistance to private voluntary organizations (PVOs) with respect to planning, development, operation, and evaluation of landmine assistance, research, and prevention programs. The VA currently provides advice to other federal agencies on a nonreimbursable basis. The bill would authorize VA to provide technical assistance to PVOs on a reimbursable basis. Based on information from VA, CBO estimates the cost and collections from providing this technical assistance would be less than \$500,000 a year.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1777 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On November 8, 2001, CBO prepared an estimate for H.R. 3169, the International Disability and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife, and Warfare Assistance Act of 2001, as ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on November 1, 2001. That bill would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million in 2002 and 2003 for programs to assist individuals with disabilities, including victims of landmines and other victims of warfare and civil strife administered by USAID and such sums as may be necessary in 2002-2004 for the CDC. H.R. 3169 also would authorize VA to provide advice and expertise to federal agencies and technical assistance to PVOs with respect to planning, development, operation, and evaluation of landmine programs. CBO's estimate of the costs associated with the CDC and VA programs are the same in both bills.

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